



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 21, 2003**

## **HECB to study higher education budget, student residency**

**OLYMPIA**—The Higher Education Coordinating Board will review the governor's biennial operating and capital budgets for higher education, as well as consider issues surrounding student residency and tuition rates during its Jan. 29 meeting at The Evergreen State College in Olympia.

Wolfgang Opitz, deputy director of the Office of Financial Management, will give an overview of Gov. Gary Locke's budget for higher education. The governor's budget proposes cutting the two-year funding for higher education by nearly \$152 million. But his proposal to let colleges and universities increase tuition up to 9 percent for the next two years would offset most of that cut. The governor's budget also proposes bolstering the state's support for financial aid by \$32 million and adding 1,500 new enrollment slots for high-demand fields, such as technology and health care.

On the issue of residency, officials from the University of Washington will present an overview of their proposal to change the state rules that determine whether students qualify for resident or non-resident tuition charges.

The Board also will take action on two new degree programs at Western Washington University, including a bachelor's degree in financial economics and a bachelor's degree in Asian studies.

**Who: Higher Education Coordinating Board**

**What: January regular meeting**

**Where: The Evergreen State College Longhouse 101, Rooms B and C  
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW, Olympia**

**When: Wednesday, Jan. 29  
10 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

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